

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1) In a process for winding an elastic fiber onto a core for forming a package and/or warp beam for use in knitting or weaving operations, the improvement comprising: forming the elastic fiber into a shape having a fiber cross section such that the width of the fiber is at least 1.5 times the thickness of the fiber, prior to winding onto the core.
- 2) The process of Claim 1 wherein the width of the cross-sectional area is at least 3 times the thickness of the fiber.
- 3) The process of Claim 1 wherein the width of the cross-sectional area is at least 5 times the thickness of the fiber.
- 4) The process of Claim 1 wherein the elastic fiber is an olefin polymer.
- 5) The process of Claim 1 wherein the elastic fiber is a linear ethylene-alpha olefin interpolymer.
- 6) The process of Claim 1 wherein the elastic fiber is a substantially linear ethylene-alpha olefin interpolymer which has been substantially crosslinked.
- 7) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fiber is formed using dies having an opening which has two generally perpendicular axes, wherein one axis is at least about 1.5 times longer than the other axis.
- 8) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fiber is formed using dies having an opening which has two generally perpendicular axes, wherein one axis is at least about 3 times longer than the other axis.
- 9) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fiber is formed from two or more individual filaments having a generally round cross-section but wherein the two or more filaments are coalesced into a fiber having a cross section such that the width of the fiber is at least 3 times the thickness of the fiber, such shape being determined prior to winding the elastic fiber onto the tube core.
- 10) An improved package for elastic fiber comprising: a length of elastic fiber wound around a core, wherein the elastic fiber has a cross sectional area such that the width of the fiber is at least 3 times the thickness of the fiber prior to winding the elastic fiber onto the tube core
- 11) A process for forming an elastic fiber wherein the fiber is formed using a die having one or more openings which have two generally perpendicular axes, wherein one axis is at least about 3 times longer than the other axis.

- 12) The process of Claim 11 wherein the fiber is used in a nonwoven structure
- 13) The process of Claim 11 wherein the fiber is used as a binder fiber.
- 14) The process of Claim 13 wherein the binder fiber is a bicomponent fiber.
- 15) The process of claim 11 wherein the fiber is wound onto a package or warp beam.
- 16) Fabric comprising a fiber made from the process of claim 11.
- 17) The Fabric of claim 16 wherein the fabric is woven or knitted.